

ON THE SCENT OF SERVICE RECORDS

It's a Merry Race Down at Bourges Catching Lost Ones

FABLE OF SARGE'S COFFEE

Salvagers Turn Out to Rout Missing Papers from Dugouts and Dumps

Once upon a Time there was a Detachment of 12 Bucks under a Sergeant, who were bound for a Base Post and eventually hoped to get to a Joint called America which they remembered reading about in the Newspapers.

While the Train was lurching around a Station for no Obvious Reason, the Sergeant asked to get a Swig of Java. Of course, that was the Time the Conductor picked to give the Engineer the "Allez" Signal.

The Bucks had lost their only Three Striper, but still were not feeling Jive. They wanted him back, which was the first Time such a Thing had happened in their Memory.

At the next Gare they piled off and were annexed by an M.P.

"Where you going?" asked that Bard.

"America," said one of the Guys, who happened to remember the name of the Place.

"Old Stuff," said the Cop. "You ain't going, you're coming. And you're coming with Me."

Their Dope sounded Fishy to the A.P.M., too.

A few Days later, when Newspapers were allowed in the Brig, they read about the Sailing of a certain Vessel. There were no Clues.

Moral: Even a Troop Train starts some Time. Stick Abroad.

Which is one of the reasons for the existence of a service record department in the Central Records Office at Bourges. If Sergeant Blank hadn't left the train to go coffee hunting at the wrong moment, and hadn't taken the service records of the 12 bucks, the voyagers with him, the course of human events would have been changed.

The unbuckled dozen would have reached their embarkation point in accordance with their S.O.S. (the service records would have been O.K.'d by the proper authority, the U.S. Transport Service-Plan would have contained 12 more passengers, the guard-house at Jelsur-La would have had 12 fewer boarders, and the department at Bourges would have had 12 fewer service records to worry about.

Coffee Drinking Seared All of which would have been entirely acceptable to everybody concerned. As things turned out, it all proved a scathing indictment of coffee drinking, and a boost for Postum.

It is the business of the service record department at Bourges to play the role of Sherlock Holmes for lost service records. Needless to say, the service records of the lost service record means little to the average soldier except the temporary loss of handsome francs on pay day, but now that embarking are in fashion among all the best families, it is of immense importance.

WHAT WONTHE WAR? WEATHER



FREE TRIP HOME IF YOU ENLISTED HERE

But Government Will Not Pay Expenses Back to Europe

Uncle Sam hasn't any objection at all to transporting to the United States those officers and enlisted men of the A.E.F. who entered the service in Europe. He is perfectly willing that they should be discharged in the United States. But—he doesn't intend to have any of them, after they have obtained that discharge back in the United States, present a bill for transportation expenses back to the place in Europe where they enlisted.

All this is made clear in G.O. 40, G.H.Q., which requires that commanders of all organizations under orders to prepare for return to the United States shall submit duplicate lists showing all members of their commands who entered the service in Europe, listing separately those who wish to be discharged in Europe, those who wish to be discharged in the United States, and those who can't make up their minds or at least fail to say where they want to be discharged.

In addition, the commanding officer is to obtain from each officer and soldier who entered the service in Europe a declaration in which it will be stated that he has had explained to him that he may be discharged in Europe, if he wishes, and that hence he waives any claim for travel expenses from the place of discharge to the place of enlistment, and that he fully understands that he must defray his own expenses from the demobilization center at which he is discharged to his home. A copy of this declaration will be attached to an officer's qualification card and a soldier's service record.

Those who fail to make any statement of their wishes in the matter of discharge will be transferred for discharge to the First Replacement Depot, or, in case the officer or soldier entered the service in the United States, to the service camp at Winchester, England, which is not unknown to a good many A.E.F. soldiers who came to France by way of England and still shudder when anyone says "rest camp."

Several hundred members of the A.E.F. are affected by the new ruling.

C-IN-C. THANKS AIR SERVICE MEN

Material Was Hardest Problem Encountered, He Tells C.A.S.

The extent to which raw materials from America increased the production of airplanes in Europe needed for A.E.F. air operations is emphasized by General Pershing in a letter to Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick, Chief of Air Service, A.E.F., in which the Commander in Chief expresses his appreciation of what the Air Service has accomplished. The most difficult problem of the A.E.F.'s air program was that of material. General Pershing states:

"At this time, when many officers and enlisted men are returning home and severing their connection with the American Expeditionary Forces, I am glad to take the opportunity of expressing to you and the officers and men under my my appreciation of what the Air Service has accomplished."

DIAMOND CRAZE GETS DOUGHBOYS ON RHINE

Shiny Gem Is Permanent Wealth, They Say, But Mark Is Not

"Good grief!" gasped the visiting major. "What is this—Low Dutchster's minstrels, or is there an epidemic raging among all the rich uncles back in the States?"

Before him paraded a detachment from the 42nd Division, glittering with—could they be? Yes, they were—diamonds, and honest-to-Pete diamonds, judging from all appearances. At the head stalked the band of the 15th Field Artillery, shining even more resplendently with precious stones than did their comrades. Bejeweled privates stood on the sidelines, nonchalantly flicking the ash from their maktin's with a finger which bore one or more gems.

One of them took it upon himself to explain: "Well, sir it's like this. These here marks that we get seem to be a fluctuating sort of commodity. One day 160 of them are worth 100 francs, next day it's 110 to 100, today it's 200. So the boys get sort of hauled up in their count. They never know whether they were millionaires or busted. You couldn't get into a game with them without bringing along an adding machine and beaucoup expert accountants, and then the game generally broke up in a fight."

BURNING BARGE HERO WINS S.O.S. CITATION

Ten Men Achieve Mention in G.O. for Meritorious Conduct

An August night in Paris three months before fighting ended gave Sgt. 1st Cl. Roy A. Miller, of the 57th Engineers, the kind of a chance that nature had fitted him for. He was in the States, in a barge, he was just won for him honorable mention for meritorious conduct. He is one of ten men who are mentioned in the G.O. 14, H.Q., S.O.S.

Sergeant Miller was sleeping on an American barge when he was awakened by an explosion. He rushed to the deck, found a British barge loaded with naphtha blazing at the side of a wharf filled with Army property. Drums of naphtha were exploding intermittently.

After helping cut loose the barge, Sergeant Miller swam into the stream and fastened a line to it when the barge threatened to drift into a place where it would have exploded, and he swam to a small boat, got another line, took aboard two comrades, and, despite the heat and explosion, succeeded in towing the burning vessel to a place where it could do no harm.

In the same order Sgt. W. E. Robinson and Pvt. William P. Ryan, both of the 57th Engineers, are cited for saving the lives of a trainload of passengers at Langres. Most of the other male passengers on the train jumped when the engine broke loose at the top of a steep incline and two coaches started with gathering speed toward the bottom. They succeeded in setting the brakes in time to prevent the coaches from crashing into the station.

Others mentioned for bravery in the order are: Capt. George Ebert, Q.M.C.; Capt. Silas H. Withersbee, T.C.; Sgt. Melvin E. Dunley, 11th Aero Squadron; Sgt. Harold E. Lewis, 11th Aero Squadron; Wagoner M. Quinn, 162nd Infantry; Pvt. Frank E. Bridgeman, 98th Company, T.C.; Pvt. Orr Van Hume, 320th Field Artillery.

AS SPRING DAWNS IN THE RHINELAND

The rising generation of Germany is not so much addicted to cigarettes as are the youth of France, but are in a fair way to become chewing gum fiends, judging from the requests which are heaped upon the Third Army. The soldier's answer is not now "No, comrade," but "No fraternize," thereby at the same time getting out of a dilemma and impressing upon the children the majesty of American military law.

Incidentally, the exact interpretation to be put upon the regulation against "fraternizing" is causing a lot of worriment in enlisted circles. A decision recently handed down from a high non-commissioned authority is that buying a glass of beer is not fraternizing, but that tipping the waiter is that evil in its most virulent form.

The coolie and the itch, non-observers of amiable terms, will have to sustain a certified nitpick soon from the ranks of the Third Army. Nine big steam disinfectors have been ordered into Germany for de-lousing purposes. If it doesn't take the first time, there will be a second, third, fourth, or as many as are necessary. And while the men are going through one mill, their clothes will be going through another.

The new American salvage depot at Coblenz-Lutzel has now turned its German employees loose among the O.D.'s. All old clothes of the Third Army will go through this plant instead of the one at Tours, and complete arrangements have been perfected to reclaim everything reclaimable.

Overhead in a Trier mess line: "Say, this war's going to help us married guys save a lot of money." "How's that?" "Didn't you notice you were getting any more economical?" "No, but now when the wife asks me for coin to get a new pair of shoes I can make her turn in the old ones first and make sure she isn't spending it for the movies."

There stands in the abandoned enemy ordnance office at Third Army headquarters, a Coblenz, a huge German shell, about six inches in diameter and nearly six feet high. It will never spread death and destruction, but some Yank with true Yank ingenuity has set it upright on its base and fitted over its mouth a circular wooden collar in which hooks have been screwed, and it makes the nicest clothes tree in the entire A.E.F.

What's in a name? An American private who had lost his detachment somewhere down the line drifted into Trier and spent almost a whole afternoon demanding the way to "Traverse," pronounced to rhyme with "Traverse." It was only after prolonged search and much racking of brains that somebody divined that he was putting an excessively phonetic pronunciation on "Trier," and that he was where he wanted to go already.

When the 89th Division Headquarters Troop entered Kyllburg, Germany, recently and established division headquarters a sheet was set out in one of the hotels for an officers' club room.

In one corner of the room was a large plaster-of-Paris bust of Kaiser Wilhelm. The Kaiser's walls were covered with plaques with heads in bas relief representing various German notables.

Upon entering the room after the first officers' meeting the landlord beheld the bust of Wilhelm in a shattered heap in one corner of the room. At the next meeting

BLOIS IS YANKLESS, MERCHANTS MOURN

Famous Casual Camp's Closing Brings Grief to Banks of Loire

Free from the din and clamor of rumbling trucks and shouting doughboys that once filled its streets, Blois, the most famous casual camp in the A.E.F., is today almost completely evacuated of American soldiers. The activities of the Blois area were transferred to the First Replacement Depot at St. Aignan on February 15, and Blois ceased to be an American Army center.

With the exception of a unit of the 20th Engineers, Base Hospital 35, the M.T.C., R.T.O. and a few M.P.'s, in all about 1,200 men, the area is cleared out. There are still large crowds of French civilians gathered at the depot every day during the evacuation to bid goodbye to the departing Americans.

The evacuation met with all sorts of disapproval on the part of Blois merchants and shop keepers, who, counting on continued American custom, had large supplies of souvenirs, officers' trench coats and Slim Browne belts in stock.

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TO MASTER MASONS

Masters of Field Lodges and Secretaries of Social Organizations of Master Masons connected with the A.E.F. are requested to communicate to the undersigned the following information for a Masonic Directory which is in progress of preparation, namely: Names of Organization, Names and Addresses of all Officers, Post Office address, street and number of regular meeting place if any.

JUST PLAIN BUSINESS

THERE'S nothing fancy or "flosy" about real education. It's strictly a business matter. It's preparation for the man's size job of earning a living.

-Before many months or weeks you may be back home in the States. Will you be able to command promotion and increase in salary in the civilian job you want?

You may be thinking of wife and children. Will you be able to earn the salary to give them what they require?

Questions of jobs and salaries don't cause much worry to men with the right sort of education—to men who have knowledge and know how to use it. Such men are always in demand in America.

Have you the education to insure your "going ahead" in the vocation or profession of your choice? If not—

Here's Your Chance!

By General Orders Nos. 9 and 30, the Army has established post schools and division educational centers; also it has provided some university courses for a limited number of men.

Inasmuch as less than 40,000 men can be accommodated in these university courses, most of the men of the A.E.F. will find educational opportunities right in their own outfits.

See the School Officer of Your Outfit

Ask him about courses of study and training you're interested in. If you can't get exactly what you want, take the next best thing that's offered. The unexpected coming of the armistice cut short the time for preparation for A.E.F. schools. Many facilities are lacking.

But, after all, your own determination to increase your knowledge is worth more than all the texts and school equipment in the world. Look at Abraham Lincoln. Education is needed more than ever for success in civilian jobs.

As "plain business matter" you should look up the educational opportunities open to you in your post or division school.

In accordance with the General Orders, school officers have been appointed to help provide the educational and occupational training that G.O. 30 calls for—training "to meet the needs of the members of the A.E.F. in order that they may become better equipped for their future responsibilities" as civilians.

The Army Educational Commission, A. E. F.

By authority of G.S. G.H.Q.

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NOTICE

Clients of the Neufchateau Branch of The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company

are informed that on March 31, 1919, all their accounts will be transferred to the PARIS OFFICE, 4 BOULEVARD HAUSMANN, where future business may be transacted, unless written instructions are given to remit elsewhere.

As our services are no longer required in that region, it has been deemed advisable to withdraw our Army Zone Office at Neufchateau in order to concentrate our attention on the departing troops at our offices in the ports of St. Nazaire and Bordeaux.

The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company

FOR LEAVE MEN IN PARIS

American soldiers on leave in Paris are no longer confronted with the unpleasant experience of sleeping in back alleys or walking the streets all night for lack of available rooms.

The American Red Cross has just completed a "City of welcome" for soldiers on leave located just opposite the Ecole Militaire on the Champ de Mars, Avenue Belgrade, and about five minutes' walk from the Invalides, whose dome is almost as sure a landmark for the newcomers as is the adjacent Eiffel tower.

The establishment can take care of 1,440 men a night. Coffee, sandwiches and cigarettes are served free, day and night. There are recreation, reading and writing rooms, guides, maps and an information bureau. Real beds, as good as can be found anywhere in the city, may be had for the price of one franc, all single beds and as clean as a whistle.

Two dances a week are given at the Champ de Mars. The dances are real, the fountains where real American ice cream sodas are dispensed free.

ARTILLERY BAND FRILLS

Fifth Avenue will be treated to something new to it in the way of military music if the 191st Field Artillery band which is now in New York upon its return. The folks at home will be treated to all that is dramatic and spectacular in the production of music by a French army band.

The grand flourish with which the French military bands begin the rendition of a march, starting with clarions and bugles and crashing finally into the march with the full complement of the band, struck the fancy of Col. C. McCormick, of the 119th. He purchased 21 clarions and increased the buglers in his band. Two French instructors were engaged.

And now, after several weeks of practice, the 119th band can play "Madelon" with all the fanfare of trumpets, tossing of bugles and flourishing of pom-poms of which most French bands are capable.